

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01798 060725Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 DOEE-00
OIC-02 /159 W

-----123314 060736Z /17

P R 060701Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9680
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, KS, EC, UK
SUBJECT: UK/EC SAFEGUARD ACTION ON KOREAN TV SETS

REF: STATE 55977

1. DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT ROKG DOES NOT REPEAT NOT
DEFININTELY PLAN TO RAISE UK/EC SAFEGUARD ACTION ON TV SETS AT MARCH 14

GATT COUNCIL MEETING. ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER CHOI HO
JOONG IS TO RAISE THE ISSUE IN LONDON WHERE HE WILL BE
PARTICIPATING IN ROKG CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. AS OF
MARCH 4, MCI OFFICIALS BELIEVED THAT HE HAD NOT YET ARRIVED
LONDON. UNTIL TIME IS ALLOWED HMG TO DECIDE ON WHETHER TO
NEGOTIATE SOMETHING LIKE US OMA'S, ROKG WILL NOT RAISE IN
GATT COUNCIL. NEVERTHELESS, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT IT MAY BE
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01798 060725Z

UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS" ON MARCH 14.

2. ASSISTANT MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY KIM SUN KIL
IN COURSE OF FOOTWEAT DISCUSSIONS WITH LANDE AND ASCHER
MARCH 4 FILLED IN SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE BRITISH ACTION
AS FOLLOWS. HE SAID THAT KOREA HAD SHIPPED 52,000 SETS
TO ENGLAND AND HAD L/C'S FOR 120,000 MORE AS WELL AS A SPE-

CIAL ORDER FOR 140,000 SETS BEFORE UK ACTION. WHEN BRITISH PRECIPITOUSLY TOOK SAFEGUARD ACTION, DR. KIM SAID THAT HE PROPOSED CANCELING THE SPECIAL ORDER OF 140,000 SETS BUT COMPLETING THE PRODUCTION OF THE 120,000 SETS FOR WHICH L/C'S HAD BEEN OPENED AND FOREIGN COMPONENTS AND PARTS HAD ALREADY BEEN IMPORTED. HIS INITIAL REQUEST THEREFORE WAS FOR A 172,000 SET CEILING FOR 1977.

3. WHEN BRITISH INSISTED ON MUCH LOWER LIMIT, KIM SUN KIL, PROMISED TO FOREGO ALL EXPORTS OF B/W TV'S IN 1979 JUST SO LONG AS KOREAN MANUFACTURERS COULD AVOID HEAVY LOSSES FROM HAVING PURCHASED PARTS FOR TV'S WHICH COULD NOT BE SHIPPED TO THE UK. WHEN BRITISH REJECTED THAT PROPOSAL, KIM SAID HE INFORMED THEM THAT KOREA COULD NOT AGREE TO THE BRITISH PROPOSALS AND HE SAID, "WE ARE HELPLESS; GO AHEAD AND HIT US." UK THEN IMPOSED UNILATERAL CEILING OF 35,000 SETS RETORACTIVELY SO THAT 17,000 SETS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM 1979 KOREAN EXPORTS.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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